

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) A closure for a glass container arranged to contain liquid, powder or paste, the container defining a first extremely flat annular surface, the closure comprising:

a sealing disc made of a hard material and adapted to sit across the annular surface, the disc defining a second extremely flat surface;

means to urge the extremely flat surfaces into parallel abutting contact; and

means to prevent lateral movement of the disc relative to the first annular surface,

wherein the extremely flat surfaces are adapted to form a ~~first~~ primary surface tension seal when they are urged into parallel abutting contact and an annular resilient membrane is positioned between the sealing disc and part of the first extremely flat surface to form a secondary seal, and

wherein the extremely flat surfaces of the container and the sealing disc each have a flatness being in the order of a few wavelengths of visible light.

29. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the sealing disc forms part of, or is housed by, a cap that is adapted to engage the container to urge the surfaces into abutting contact and prevent lateral movement.

30. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 29, wherein the cap has an internal thread arranged to engage an external thread on the container.

31. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 29, wherein the cap has an external thread arranged to engage an internal thread on the container.

32. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 29, wherein the cap has a peripheral flange surrounding an aperture, the flange bearing against the sealing disc.

33. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 32, wherein the sealing disc is transparent to act as a window allowing the contents of the container to be viewed through the closure.

34. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 29, wherein biasing means is disposed between the cap and sealing disc to urge the flat surfaces into parallel abutting contact.

35. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 34, wherein the biasing means is one of a spring washer, a Belleville washer and a wave washer.

36. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 34, wherein the cap has inturned projections that are compressible to act as biasing means.

37. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 32, wherein the sealing disc has a domed upper surface that extends through the aperture.

38. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the resilient membrane is an O-ring or gasket that is located in a groove in one of the abutting surfaces.

39. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 29, wherein the sealing disc is held captive to the cap.

40. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 29, wherein the cap has resilient location means that engages an undercut on the container to hold the cap against displacement relative to the container.

41. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 40, wherein a collar fits over the cap to hold the cap on the container.

42. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 41, wherein the collar and cap have inter-engaging formations that engage when the collar and cap are in one relative position to prevent separation of the collar from the cap and on turning of the collar disengage to allow separation.

43. (Previously Presented) The closure according claim 28, wherein a wire frame is adapted to engage the container to hold the sealing disc so that the flat surfaces are in parallel abutting contact.

44. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein a porosity of the closure is controlled by varying the finish of the surface tension seal surfaces.

45. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the sealing disc is manufactured from a material having an inherent porosity.

46. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the sealing disc has a porous plug to facilitate a degree of air entry.

47. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the sealing disc is made of glass, sintered ceramic, ceramic carbon, metal carbide, metal oxide or any other hard plastics that can define an extremely flat surface.

48. (Currently Amended) In combination, a closure for a glass container and a wine bottle having a neck and an aperture and defining a first extremely flat annular surface, the closure comprising:

a sealing disc made of a hard material and adapted to sit across the annular surface, the disc defining a second extremely flat surface;

means to urge the extremely flat surfaces into parallel abutting contact; and

means to prevent lateral movement of the disc relative to the first annular surface,

wherein the extremely flat surfaces are adapted to form a ~~first~~ primary surface tension seal when they are urged into parallel abutting contact and an annular resilient membrane is positioned between the sealing disc and part of the first extremely flat surface to form a secondary seal, and

wherein the extremely flat surfaces of the container and the sealing disc each have a flatness being in the order of a few wavelengths of visible light, and

wherein the first extremely flat surface is provided around the neck of the bottle and the sealing disc is adapted to extend across the aperture to prevent escape of the wine.

49. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 48, wherein the first extremely flat surface is defined by the neck of the bottle.

50. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 49, wherein the first extremely flat surface is at the top section or opening defined at the neck of the bottle.

51. (Previously Presented) The combination according to claim 48, wherein the closure has a degree of porosity that allows controlled air entry.

52. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the sealing disc forms part of, or is housed by, a cap which has location means so that in use when the cap is pressed onto the container and rotated relative to the container the location means engages the container to hold the cap and sealing disc in compression on the container.

53. (Cancelled).

54. (Previously Presented) The closure according to claim 28, wherein a porosity of the closure is controlled by varying a pressure applied to the surface tension seal surfaces.

55. (Currently Amended) The closure according to claim 28, wherein the first extremely flat surface of the container and the second extremely flat surface of the sealing disc engage each other in parallel abutting contact to form the ~~first~~ primary tension seal and the annular resilient membrane positioned between the sealing disc and part of the first extremely flat surface forms the secondary seal.